

(19) World Intellectual Property  
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International Bureau



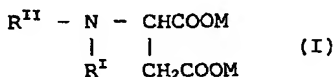
(43) International Publication Date  
26 May 2005 (26.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/046878 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **B03D 1/02**, 1/004, 1/01, 1/06, C07C 229/24
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/EP2004/012744
- (22) International Filing Date:  
5 November 2004 (05.11.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
0302986-5 13 November 2003 (13.11.2003) SE
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**  
— with international search report  
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
21 July 2005
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: USE OF A DERIVATIVE OF ASPARTIC ACID AS A COLLECTOR IN FROTH FLOTATION PROCESSES



(57) Abstract: A derivative of aspartic acid is used as a collector for a phosphate containing mineral, such as apatite, in a froth flotation process. According to the invention the collector has a high selectivity for phosphate containing minerals even in the presence of carbonate minerals, such as calcite. The derivative has the formula (I), where R<sup>I</sup> is a hydrophobic group containing a hydrocarbon group of 6-24 carbon atoms; R<sup>II</sup> is an alkyl group with 1-7 carbon atoms or a group of the formula (B)<sub>y</sub>H, in which B is an alkyleneoxy group with 2-4 carbon atoms and y is a number from 1 to 10; and M is a group selected from the group consisting of a cation or hydrogen. Methods for producing the derivative are also described.